

CHAPTER 4  
PHARMACIST-INTERN REGISTRATION AND  
MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR EVALUATING PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE  
[Prior to 2/10/88, see Pharmacy Examiners[620] Ch 3]

**657—4.1(155A) Definitions.**

*“Pharmacist-intern”* means a person enrolled in a college of pharmacy or actively pursuing a pharmacy degree, who is registered with the Iowa board of pharmacy examiners. The purpose of this registration is to obtain instruction in the practice of pharmacy from a preceptor pursuant to the requirements of Iowa Code section 155A.6. Registration is required of all students enrolled in Iowa colleges of pharmacy after they have successfully completed one semester in a college of pharmacy.

*“Pharmacist preceptor”* or *“preceptor”* means a pharmacist licensed to practice pharmacy in Iowa. Preceptors shall meet the conditions and requirements of rule 4.9(155A). No pharmacist shall serve as a preceptor if the pharmacist’s license to practice pharmacy has been the subject of an order of the board imposing any penalty set out in 657—Chapter 36 during the time the pharmacist is serving as preceptor or within the three-year period immediately preceding application for approval as a preceptor. Provided, however, a pharmacist who has been the subject of such an order may petition the board in writing for approval to act as preceptor.

**657—4.2(155A) Goal and objectives of internship.**

**4.2(1)** The goal of internship is for the pharmacist-intern to attain the knowledge, skills, responsibilities, and ability to safely, efficiently, and effectively practice pharmacy under the laws and rules of the state of Iowa.

**4.2(2)** The objectives of internship are as follows:

*a. Managing drug therapy to optimize patient outcomes.* The pharmacist-intern shall evaluate the patient and patient information to determine the presence of a disease or medical condition, to determine the need for treatment or referral, and to identify patient-specific factors that affect health, pharmacotherapy, or disease management; ensure the appropriateness of the patient’s specific pharmacotherapeutic agents, dosing regimens, dosage forms, routes of administration, and delivery systems; and monitor the patient and patient information and manage the drug regimen to promote health and ensure safe and effective pharmacotherapy.

*b. Ensuring the safe and accurate preparation and dispensing of medications.* The pharmacist-intern shall perform calculations required to compound, dispense, and administer medication; select and dispense medications; and prepare and compound extemporaneous preparations and sterile products.

*c. Providing drug information and promoting public health.* The pharmacist-intern shall access, evaluate, and apply information to promote optimal health care; educate patients and health care professionals regarding prescription medications, nonprescription medications, and medical devices; and educate patients and the public regarding wellness, disease states, and medical conditions.

*d. Adhering to professional and ethical standards.* The pharmacist-intern shall comply with professional, legal, moral, and ethical standards relating to the practice of pharmacy and the operation of the pharmacy.

*e. Understanding the management of pharmacy operations.* The pharmacist-intern shall develop a general understanding of the business procedures of a pharmacy and develop knowledge concerning the employment and supervision of pharmacy employees.

**657—4.3(155A) 1500-hour requirements.** Internship credit may be obtained only after internship registration with the board and successful completion of one semester in a college of pharmacy. Internship shall consist of a minimum of 1500 hours, 1000 hours of which may be a college-based clinical program approved or accepted by the board. Programs shall be structured to provide experience in community, institutional, and clinical pharmacy practices. The remaining 500 hours shall be acquired under the supervision of the preceptor in a licensed pharmacy or other board-approved location, at a rate of no more than 48 hours per week. At least 250 hours shall be earned in a traditional licensed general or hospital pharmacy where the goal and objectives of internship in rule 657—4.2(155A) apply. Internship credit toward the stipulated 500 hours will not be allowed if it is acquired concurrent with academic training. “Concurrent time” means internship experience acquired while the person is a full-time student carrying, in a given school term, at least 75 percent of the average number of credit hours per term needed to graduate and receive an entry level degree in pharmacy. Credit toward the 500 hours will be granted for experience gained during recognized holiday periods, such as spring break and Christmas break. The competencies in subrule 4.2(2) shall not apply to college-based clinical programs.

**657—4.4(155A) Iowa colleges of pharmacy clinical internship programs.** The board shall periodically review the clinical component of internship programs of the colleges of pharmacy located in Iowa. The board reserves the right to set conditions relating to the approval of such programs.

**657—4.5(155A) Requirements for internships obtained under other state programs.** Graduates from out-of-state colleges of pharmacy will be deemed to have met Iowa internship requirements upon presentation of documents attesting to completion of their state internship requirements. Graduates of colleges of pharmacy in states which have no internship requirements must meet the requirements established for Iowa college of pharmacy graduates.

**657—4.6(155A) Registration and reporting.**

**4.6(1)** Every person shall register before beginning the person’s internship experience, whether or not for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of rule 4.3(155A). Registration shall remain in effect during successive training periods if records, forms, affidavits, and other materials required by the board are maintained and executed promptly at the beginning and ending of such training periods, and if the board is satisfied that the intern is pursuing a degree in pharmacy in good faith and with reasonable diligence.

**4.6(2)** Credit for internship time will not be granted unless registration and other required records and affidavits are completed.

*a.* The pharmacist-intern shall be so designated in all relationships with the public and health professionals. The intern shall wear a badge or name tag with the intern’s name and designation, pharmacist-intern or pharmacy student, clearly and visibly imprinted thereon.

*b.* Registered interns shall notify the board office within ten days of a change of name, employment or residence.

*c.* Notarized affidavits of experience in non-college-sponsored programs must be filed with the board office within 90 days after the last day of the internship period. These affidavits must certify only the number of hours and dates of training which are nonconcurrent with college of pharmacy enrollment.

**4.6(3)** Credit will not be given for internship experience obtained prior to registration as a pharmacist-intern.

**657—4.7(155A) Foreign pharmacy graduates.** Foreign pharmacy graduates who are candidates for licensure in Iowa will be required to obtain a minimum of 1500 hours of internship in a licensed pharmacy or other board-approved location. These candidates must register with the board as per rule 4.6(155A). Internship credit will not be granted until the candidate has been issued an intern registration card. Applications for registration must be accompanied by documentation that the foreign pharmacy graduate has passed the Foreign Pharmacy Graduate Equivalency Exam (FPGEE) and the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). The board may waive any or all of the 1500 hours if they determine that the candidate's experience as a practicing pharmacist in the foreign country meets the goals and objectives established in rule 4.2(155A).

**657—4.8(155A) Fees.** The fee for registration as an intern is \$10 payable with the application.

**657—4.9(155A) Preceptor requirements.**

- 4.9(1)** A preceptor shall be a licensed pharmacist in good standing with the board.
- 4.9(2)** Preceptors are required to be approved by the board.
- 4.9(3)** A preceptor may supervise no more than two pharmacist-interns concurrently.
- 4.9(4)** A preceptor shall be responsible for the accuracy of all functions performed by a pharmacist-intern.

**657—4.10(155A) Denial of pharmacist-intern registration.** The board may deny an application for registration as a pharmacist-intern for any violation of the laws of this state, another state, or the United States relating to prescription drugs, controlled substances, or nonprescription drugs, or for any violation of Iowa Code chapter 124, 124A, 124B, 126, 147, 155A or 205, or any rule of the board.

**657—4.11(155A) Discipline of pharmacist-interns.**

**4.11(1)** The board may impose discipline for any violation of the laws of this state, another state, or the United States relating to prescription drugs, controlled substances, or nonprescription drugs, or for any violation of Iowa Code chapter 124, 124A, 124B, 126, 147, 155A, or 205, or any rule of the board.

**4.11(2)** The board may impose the following disciplinary sanctions:

- a.* Revocation of a pharmacist-intern registration.
- b.* Suspension of a pharmacist-intern registration until further order of the board or for a specified period.
- c.* Prohibit permanently, until further order of the board, or for a specified period, the engaging in specified procedures, methods or acts.
- d.* Such other sanctions allowed by law as may be appropriate.

These rules implement Iowa Code section 155A.6.

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